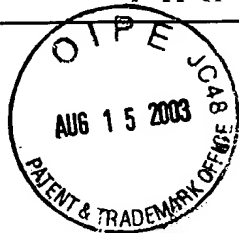


ARNOLD & PORTER



August 15, 2003

Holly Logue Prutz
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555 Twelfth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1206

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attn: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/696,664
Filed: October 25, 2000
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants
Applicants: Mark S. ABAD *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16517.001/51721B

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO):

1. Amendment and Response to Office Action mailed May 15, 2003; and
2. Return postcard.

Please stamp the postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number 16517.001/51721B. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Logue Prutz (Reg. No. 47,755)
David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)

Attachments



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Mark S. ABAD *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/696,664

Filed: October 25, 2000

Title: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other
Molecules Associated with Plants**

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Michael L. BORIN

Atty. Docket No.: 38-21(51721)B

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AUG 18 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Amendment and Response to Office Action mailed May 15, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attn: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 15, 2003 (Paper Number 12),
Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, authorization is hereby given in the accompanying transmittal letter.